

A N
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TO 8228. 6. 53
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EXPEL the POISON

Contained in an
ANONYMOUS PAMPHLET,
LATELY PUBLISHED,
ENTITLED,

*A Detection of the Proceedings and Practices of the
DIRECTORS of the Royal African Company of
England, &c.*

BEING
Intended not only as a full Answer to this Pamphlet,
but to all others of the like Nature, that may come
out hereafter.

Hic Niger est, bunc tu Romane Carreto.

Hor. Sac. L. I. Sat. 4.

L O N D O N:
Printed for J. ROBERTS, in Warwick-Lane, 1749.
[Price One Shilling.]

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A N
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T O
EXPEL the POISON, &c.



HE Libel which hath lately appeared in Print against a Company in Distress, as well as against several innocent Gentlemen concerned therein, is written with so little Regard to Decency and good Manners, and is so confused, and so stuffed with gross Misrepresentations and Falsehoods, without the least Colour of Proof to support them; that the Parties who are thereby intended to be hurt, might, without any Reply, safely leave the whole to the Judgement of the better and more candid

Part of Mankind: But in regard that there are many who may be misled to judge of Things by *bold Assertions, Clamour and Noise*, more than by Truth and Matters of Fact; and that this is an Affair wherein the Interest of the *British* Nation is deeply concerned; it may be of Service to make a few Remarks on the same, in order to Caution the Unwary from being misled or imposed upon by the Scandal and Calumny of such a *venal Pen*.

The chief Articles of Accusation may be comprised under the following Heads: First, Such as tend to blacken the *African Company* in general; Secondly, Such as are intended to blast the Characters, and to bring an Odium upon some *Gentlemen* who are, or have been concerned in the Management of the said Company's Affairs; Thirdly, Such as relate to the Method of the Company's Accounting with the Publick, for such Aids as the Parliament have been pleased to grant for several Years past for the Support of the Company's Forts and Castles in *Africa*; and fourthly, To such miscellaneous Misrepresentations as relate to the State of foreign Companies, and other Matters on the Coast of *Africa*. And if it shall appear that this Pamphleteer hath grossly misrepresented the most material Facts relating to these Points, the Reader will easily judge what Credit may be due to the Rest of the *Trash* therein contained.

But

But in order to clear the Way, and enable such Gentlemen as may not be so well acquainted with the Nature and Circumstances of this Affair ; it will be necessary, by Way of Introduction, to take Notice of some Particulars previous in point of Time, to the Matters now in Question.

In the Year 1672, when the Company was first established, the Trade of this Nation to *Africa* was reduced to the lowest Ebb ; so that no Set of Merchants or other monied Men, could be found or prevailed upon to embark therein, and to recover and secure an Interest in the same, for the Benefit of this Nation, but upon the Foot of a long Term of Years, with the sole Priviledge of enjoying the Benefit of such Trade as they should so recover, for the Term of One Thousand Years, *exclusive of all others his Majesty's Subjects* : Whereupon his then Majesty was graciously pleased, after taking the Advice of the most eminent and able Lawyers of those Times, to grant unto the said Company a Royal Charter, under the Great Seal of *England*, for the said Term, with *exclusive Priviledges*, and such other Immunities and Encouragements as were then found absolutely necessary in order to encourage Merchants, and other monied Men, to embark in such a hazardous and expensive Undertaking, as the Recovery of this Trade out of the Hands of several Powerful foreign Rivals ; who at that Time set up and claimed

claimed a Right to the whole Trade of the Coast of *Africa*, exclusive of this, as well as of all other *European* Nations.

While the Company enjoyed, and were protected in their said Rights and Priviledges, they greatly enlarged and fortified the poor Remains which they had purchased of their Predecessors, and which were then little more than bare *Marks* of Possession ; and they built many new Forts and Castles on that Coast, at great Hazard and Expence ; all which they maintained at their own sole Cost and Charge, without asking for, or receiving any Aid or Assistance from the Publick for those Purposes.

In the Year 1697, when the Parliament was prevailed upon to suspend the exclusive Priviledges of the Company's Charter, and to lay the Trade open to all his Majesty's Subjects for thirteen Years, they were pleased to declare, in the Preamble to the said Act, *in hoc verba* : *Whereas the Trade to Africa is highly beneficial and advantageous to this Kingdom, and to the Colonies and Plantations thereunto belonging ; and whereas FORTS and CASTLES are UNDQUBTEDLY NECESSARY for the Preservation and well carrying on the said Trade ; and whereas the said FORTS and CASTLES now on the said Coast of Africa, have been, and are now maintained at the SOLE COST and CHARGE of the present ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY OF ENGLAND ; towards which COST and CHARGE*

it

it is most reasonable that all Persons trading to such Parts of the said Coast of Africa as are herein after limited and appointed, should contribute: Be it therefore enacted, &c. By this Act a Duty of 10 per Cent. ad Valorem, was imposed upon all Goods and Merchandise, exported to that Coast for the said Term of 13 Years, to be answered and paid to the said Company, towards the Support of the said Forts and Castles.

This Duty being complained of by the private Traders as a great Burden upon the Trade, and the Company having found little Advantage from it, the Act was suffered to expire in 1712; and the private Traders continued to Trade to *Africa*, as freely as when the Act continued in Force, without contributing any Thing towards the *necessary Charges* of the said Forts and Castles.

From the Year 1712 to the Year 1730, being 18 Years, the Company again maintained their said Forts and Castles at their own sole Cost and Charge; at and after the Rate of 15000*l.* at the least, and for several Years at the Rate of 20,000*l.* per *Annum*, and upwards.

In the Year 1729 and 1730, the Company finding it absolutely impracticable to support such an Expence any longer; and being likewise sensible that the Trade could not bear the said Burden, they thought it their Duty to apply to some Persons of Honour, then in the Administration, to represent the true State of the

the Trade, the absolute Necessity of Forts and Castles, and the Incapacity of the Company to support them any longer at their own Expence, *upon the Foot of an open Trade*; whereupon they were encouraged humbly to Petition the Parliament and to lay their Case before them: The Result whereof was, that upon the Foot of a free and open Trade, an Allowance ought to be made towards the Charge of the said *Forts and Castles*; in pursuance whereof the Parliament were pleased, for several Years successively, to grant sundry Aids for that Service, out of the Current Supplies of the Year. But the Company soon finding that the said Aids were insufficient for the Service intended, and that no Merchants or Monied Men, then in or out of the Company would join in any Measures for enlarging the Trading Stock of the Company, without a suitable Parliamentary Provision for the Maintenance of the said Forts and Castles, and that for a Term of Years certain; and also foreseeing that the Maintenance of the Forts and Castles would otherwise in Time exhaust any new Stock to be raised; the Company soon found themselves reduced to the Necessity either of abandoning the Whole, or of borrowing sundry considerable Sums of Money, and often of pledging the private and personal Credit of some of the Directors themselves, for raising Money for carrying on the Trade, and for supporting the Credit of the Company; a great Part of which

which remains a Debt upon the Company to this Day.

The Directors having for several Years past found it impossible for the Company to support the said Forts and Castles with the Aids that had been granted by Parliament, or with the Assistance of their private Credit, have from Year to Year humbly applied to the Legislature for such further or other Relief as they should judge proper and necessary; or that the Publick would please to purchase the Company's Property in the said Forts and Castles, &c. so as that the Company might, in either Case, be enabled to pay their just Debts in the first Place, and divide the Overplus among their Proprietors. But the Exigencies which the late just and necessary War brought upon the Publick, did, as may very reasonably be presumed, make it necessary to wait with Patience, in Hopes that upon the Restoration of Peace, proper Measures would be taken, either for enabling the Company to support their said Forts and Castles, or that the Publick would Purchase the Company's Property in them, and thereby enable the Company to do Justice to their Creditors in the first Place, and afterwards to divide the Surplus among their Proprietors.

The Peace being now happily restored, under the wise and most auspicious Conduct of our most gracious Sovereign, the Company have again presumed to Petition the Honourable House of Commons this Session, humbly

Praying that they will be pleased to take the State of this Trade into Consideration, and to make such Provision for the Support of the said Forts and Castles, or to grant the said Company and their Creditors such other Relief as to the Wisdom of that Honourable House shall seem meet.

This having awaken'd the Fears and jealousies of certain evil disposed Persons, who well knowing that if the Company succeed in their Application to Parliament, they will have little or no Chance of being employed a second Time in the Company's Service ; in they have racked all their Invention to misrepresent Facts, to forge Accounts, and to defame the Company, and for that End to publish the Pamphlet here referred to and which therefore, if we shall now, without any more Ceremony, briefly consider under the four general Heads before mentioned.

And first, with Regard to the Accusations levelled against the Company in general. The Pamphleteer is so modest at first setting out, Page 2. as to admit that the Expence of building and supporting Forts being too great for private Merchants, Companies were every where erected with exclusive Privileges ; and that these Companies defrayed the Expence of the Forts, either out of the Profits of their own Trade, or out of the Taxes they levied on private Adventurers. Now this is nearly the Case of the Royal African Company ; they have not indeed any

Power

Power to levy any Taxes on private Adventurers, but they have a Charter with *exclusive Priviledges*; they have built many Forts on the *African Coast*; they have by that Means retrieved and preserved the Trade from being utterly and irretrievably lost to this Nation; and while they were suffered to enjoy their *exclusive Priviledges*, they defrayed the whole of this Expence, and supported their Forts out of the Profits of their own Trade: May we now presume to ask this poinant Scribbler, for which of these good Deeds does he labour so hard to bring an Odium on all Directors, and with a Dash of his Pen to strip the Company of their Property? Were Companies established at first with *exclusive Priviledges* only to defray the Expences, which were too great for private Merchants; and as soon as that was done, to be demolished, and their Property to be applied to, and for the sole Benefit and Encouragement of private Merchants? Hath *Bristol* or *Liverpool*, who never contributed a Shilling to such Expences, a better Right now to Encouragement than the Company who retrieved and secured this Trade to their Country at their own sole Risque and Expence? Or hath this Pamphleteer received any Assurances from the Merchants of *Bristol* or *Liverpool*, that, if he can demolish the *African Company*, they will intrust him with the chief Command and Management of their Trade and other

Concerns in *Africa*? No; I am persuaded the Merchants of *Bristol* and *Liverpool* are Men of more Honour and good Sense, than to give the least Countenance or Encouragement to such scandalous and unjust Proceedings. But to come to Particulars.

The Pamphleteer, Page 9, asserts, *That in 1712, the Company owed 298,000 l. which they paid by adding new Shares to their Stock, and giving them to their Creditors, who, by Act of Parliament were obliged to take them.* Not satisfied with paying their Debts in this Manner, they made a By-Law, which obliged every Person possessed of a Share, to pay in 3 l. to the Company or forfeit his Share; many of the Creditors paid the Money, and lost it as well as their whole Debts.

Now here are F A C T S roundly and boldly asserted; and I am content to rest the *Truth* or *Falshood* of every other Accusation in the Libel, upon the *Truth* or *Falshood* of what is here so confidently affirmed. I have now before me an Account of all the Calls made by the Company; from which it appears that in the Year 1712, the Number of the Shares were $10395\frac{1}{2}$; that 3 l. was called in upon each of the said Shares, which, deducting an Allowance made for prompt Payment, brought in the nett Sum of 23851 l. 17 s. 4 d. This done, these $10,395\frac{1}{2}$ Shares were reduced ten into one; that is, they were reduced from

$10395\frac{1}{2}$

10,395 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1101 $\frac{1}{2}$ Shares, to which were added, for the Creditors Bonds and Debts, 3156 $\frac{2}{3}$ new Shares; and then the whole Capital consisted of 4257 $\frac{4}{3}$ Shares; and in this Condition the Shares continued from the Year 1712 to the Year 1720. Now let the Libeller falsify this Account if he can: If he cannot, let the Reader judge of all the rest of his Pamphlet by this Sample.

I might further add, that, from some Particulars mentioned in the Libeller's own Account of this Transaction, it appears, that whoever invented, or had a Hand in publishing the same, he must be an intire Stranger to the Nature and Constitution of all Companies.

The Libeller proceeds, Page 9; from the Year 1720 to 1723, the Company raised 524,000*l.* by New Shares: An eminent Peer was made a Director; Ships were fitted out, loaded with Goods and Miners: They fell a Trading, and digging through Mountains in search of Gold. Their Trading Stock was soon spent; no Gold was found; and a great Hole in the Side of a Hill alone remains, as an everlasting Monument of their Industry. Thus a low, ludicrous Buffoon presumes to treat the Character of a Peer of the first Rank in Britain.—But though I have no access to the Company's Books, yet I will venture to give a more satisfactory Account of this Transaction than this Writer seems to be yet acquainted with.

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From the Year 1712, when the 10 per Cent. Duty expired, to the Year 1720, the Company was again reduced to the hard Necessity of maintaining their Forts and Castles at their own Charge, while the Coast lay open for every Body to go and Trade, without being obliged to contribute any thing towards that Expence. This in eight Years not only exhausted a great Part of their Trading Stock, but run them in Debt again, to the amount of about 80,000 £.

In the Beginning of the Year 1720, a Proposal was made to the Company for engraving 15696 New Shares, at 25 per Cent. that out of the Money arising from the Sale of the New Shares, the Company's Debts, amounting to about 80,000 £. should be paid; that the Proprietors of the old Stock should be paid a Dividend of 10 £. upon each of their Shares; and that the Residue of the Money should be a Trading Stock, for the Benefit of all the Proprietors, old as well as new.

This Proposal the Company readily embraced; and had it not been for some Indiscretions very common that Year in another great Company, as well as in the *African*, and for some other Losses, which no Man could foresee, they might have succeeded in their Affairs much better than they did.

out her aged, and ruined establishment, credit
 to For upon those 15696 Shares there was paid } £ 387,967
 in dividends, &c. Out of which }
 The Company's Creditors were paid £ 7,80,000
 The old Proprietors were paid a Dividend of 10*l.* upon each of the old Shares, which with other Charges, amounted to £ 52,000
 The Company before the End of the Year 1720, lost by their Loan and otherwise about £ 1,108,000
 So that all the Money the Company had remaining to Trade with, amounted to only about £ 147,967
 With this Money, and the Credit of it, the Company built and freighted sundry Ships; they provided several large Cargoes; they plentifully supplied their Warehouses on the Coast with Goods; and sent out all Manner of Stones and Supplies for the Repairs and Defence of their Forts and Castles; they resettled Gambia; and they made a New Settlement, at a very great Expence, on the Coast of Angola; But these

these Undertakings being too large and too expensive to go upon all at once, and the Loss which they sustained in the Year 1722, by the King of *Portugal's* destroying their New Settlement at *Angola*; for which they never could obtain any Satisfaction; all these things, I say, threw the Company's Affairs into such Disorder, that all they could do afterwards proved ineffectual; so that about the Beginning of the Year 1725, those who had been principally concerned from the Year 1720, quitted the Direction.

Another great Crime laid to the Company's Charge is their *Misfortunes*: And were it not for the Epithet of a *Bankrupt-Company*, some Declaimers would lose one of the most prevailing Arguments they have to prejudice other Gentlemen against the Company. But from what hath been already observed, every Gentleman of Honour and Candour will see, that the *Misfortunes* of the Company are chiefly owing to the unequal Treatment they have met with, and to the great Expence of their *Forts* and *Castles*, which, upon the Foot of a free and open Trade to all his Majesty's Subjects, can never be supported but by a sufficient Parliamentary Provision for that Service. And I believe this is the first Instance, and hope it will be the last, of any Company's falling under *Misfortunes*, which they have upon all Occasions laboured to get remedied in a proper Way, but never could; and then of having

having those very Misfortunes laid to their Charge as a Crime, or made use of as an Argument for taking away their legal Rights, Property and Priviledges, without a reasonable Consideration for the same. This Doctrine may be fostered in Holes and Corners, and propagated among the Dregs of the People: But the Company are perfectly secure, that the High and Honourable Court of Parliament, if any Proposition of that Nature should be made, would treat the same with the utmost Contempt and Detestation.

I come now to the second general Head; which shall be dispatched in as few Words as possible. As for the Conduct and Behaviour of the Directors in general, they are Gentlemen of such fair Characters, and many of them of such Fortunes and Credit in the World, that to vindicate them, where no particular Charge is alledged, would be injuring their Characters. Among them, however there is one, who is, and hath for many Years past been the principal Object of the Malice and Calumny of every Person, who have abused or defrauded the Company at Home as well as Abroad; because they well knew his general Character to be, that he was neither to be corrupted himself, nor to be induced to wink at Corruption in any other Person. Truth, above all Things, is his favourite Passion; in private Life he is just and frugal; Riches he never coveted; he hath not many Vices to feed, nor very expensive Pleasures to follow; and

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therefore, he lives independent, in perfect Friendship with all his Acquaintance; and in Charity with all the World. And as for his Conduct, as a Member of the Court of Assistants of the *African Company*, I have Authority to say, that he hath always and upon all Occasions invariably acted, according to the best of his Judgment, and with the strictest regard to Truth, Justice and Honour, without Favour or Affection to Friends, as well as without Resentment, Malice or Revenge, against his most inveterate Enemies. He liv'd in *Africa* about five Years, in one of the best Posts in the Company's Service, next to the Director General; but he never learned the Art of getting Thousands, in a short time, out of inconsiderable Appointments. In the Year 1713, he accepted a Place of 70*l.* a Year in the Company's Service at Home, which he resigned in the Year 1719, with a View of retiring from all Business, and passing the Remainder of his Days in a private Country Life: But in the Year 1721, he was unhappily prevailed upon to come into the Direction, where he hath continued till lately, that some Gentlemen of greater Abilities were so indulgent to him, as to take the Care of the Company's Affairs into their Hands. And if this Libeller, or any others of his Fraternity, could have fixed any Blemish upon his Character, it may be presumed it would have been done by some one or other of them long since; but as for his Innuendoes about the *Antigua Estate*,

Estate, and he doth not know of any other; publick Notice was given of the Sale of; it was sold by publick Auction; Mr. *Gerish*, an eminent Merchant, bid for Mr. *Kirby* of *Antegoa*; and Mr. *Dunbar* bid for himself, or some other Friend; and Mr. *Kirby* and Mr. *Dunbar* are now in *London*, and they can best tell what private and underhand Bargains were made upon that Occasion, and who participated of the Benefit of them.

There are many other loose incoherent and unjust Aspersions thrown out in almost every Page of this Libel; as against the Directors of the *African Company*, and those are purposely so blended and intermixed with other Matters, that I have neither Leisure nor Inclination to answer them, and therefore shall only desire of such candid Readers, as will take that Trouble, to observe how he strives to load those Directors with every Misfortune, every scandalous Story, and every Mal-Practice, real or imaginary, charged upon any of their Servants Abroad, tho' committed never so much against the Will, and against the Orders of those Directors: And to judge of his Assertions according to the Samples of his Candour and fair Reasoning already produced.

Proceed we then to the third general Head relating to the Method of accounting with the Publick for such Aids as the Parliament have been pleased to grant for several Years past, for the Support of the Company's Forts and Castles in *Africa*: And as the following Letter is come

to hand, upon that Subject, it is here inserted
in the Writer's own Words.

‘ S I R,

‘ F I N D I N G my Name invidiously made
‘ Use of in a Pamphlet lately published
‘ against the *African* Company, and observing
‘ an Advertisement importing, that some Well-
‘ Wisher to the *African* Trade, intends to
‘ give an Answer to that Performance, I have
‘ taken the Liberty to convey this to your
‘ Hands, by Means of your Printer, and to
‘ request that you will give it a Place in your
‘ Antidote, if that may be done consistently
‘ with what you have already wrote, or intend
‘ to write upon that Subject.

‘ The Author of the Detection expresses
‘ himself, (Page 10.) with Respect to me, as
‘ if I were, *at this Time*, Accomptant to the
‘ *African* Company, and in the same Breath
‘ says, he has *had Opportunities enough to make*
‘ *himself acquainted with their Proceedings*.
‘ Now as he is so well acquainted, he could
‘ not but know that I had resigned my Employ-
‘ ment under the *African* Company, chiefly
‘ on Account of what I apprehended to be hard
‘ and unequal Treatment; and that long be-
‘ fore he began to write his Libel, I had no
‘ Connection with that Company, otherwise
‘ than as a Creditor for upwards 500*l.*

‘ My Zeal for the Service of the *African*
‘ Company being sufficiently cooled, I did not
intend

' intend ever to think any more of their Affairs;
 ' but finding that the confused Author of the
 ' Detection, had so jumbled together his un-
 ' provoked Aspersions on me, personally, with
 ' the Affairs of the Company, and had misre-
 ' presented the Whole in such Manner as to
 ' confound rather than inform the Judgments
 ' of our Superiors (who, no doubt, intend to
 ' take the most proper Methods, when disco-
 ' vered, for the Preservation of the *African*
 ' Trade, for its own Sake) I became willing
 ' to have given the best Lights and Informa-
 ' tions in my Power, as well as to vindicate
 ' myself: and if, by my so doing, the *African*
 ' Company, or the Court of Assistants, should
 ' have found that I had wiped off all, or any of
 ' the unjust Aspersions cast on them, I should
 ' not have envied them the Benefit, notwith-
 ' standing the Usage of which, I think, I have
 ' reason to complain. In order to this, I pro-
 ' cured Application to be made very lately, for
 ' Liberty of Extracts or Copies out of the Com-
 ' pany's Books, of such Particulars as should be
 ' necessary; but a full Negative was put upon
 ' the Motion by a resolved Majority, who, as
 ' I am informed, and indeed have felt, have for
 ' this good while taken upon them to govern
 ' in a Manner, which, to Strangers, appears very
 ' unaccountable.

' Being thus left to myself, I shall not inter-
 ' meddle in their Affairs farther than to premise
 ' a true State of the Method in which the
 ' *African*

‘ *African* Company has been obliged to account with the Publick (that is with the Exchequer) for the annual Sums granted for the Support and Maintenance of their Forts and Castles.

‘ The first 10,000*l.* was granted in the Year 1730, and I believe that no Body knew, or at least that it was not explained, at that time, what Account the *African* Company were to render of the Application of that Sum. A Petition was presented, on Behalf of the Company, to the next Session of Parliament, for a farther Allowance ; before this was granted, the Honourable the House of Commons, very justly and wisely, called for an Account of the disposal of the first 10,000*l.*

‘ Now in regard that about three Fourths of the Charge of maintaining the Forts in *Africa* must be paid there, by the Produce of Goods first sent from *England*, and then sold, or bartered in *Africa* ; and in regard that an Account of such Produce received, and of the Disposition thereof Abroad, must be made, and rendered to the Company in *England*, before they could possibly give an Account to any body else, what had been laid out upon the Forts ; they laid before the House the best Account they could ; which was an Account of what they had laid out here, and of what Provision they had made, for applying Abroad, at least so much Money as had been given for the Purposes intended

tended by the Grant, which proved satisfactory so far.

Afterwards, but for want of access to the Company's Books, I cannot say how soon, the Company was called upon by a Distringas out of the Exchequer, to account for the Money which they had received by way of Imprest; and then they found that the general Accounts of sufficient Cargoes sent out, by way of making Provision, would avail them nothing; nor if they could have shewn that every Shilling of the publick Money had been immediately laid out here in the Purchase of such Cargoes, neither could that have been satisfactory; nor any thing less than a minute and particular Account of every individual Item or Article actually paid in *England*, or in *Africa*, for the immediate Support and Maintenance of the Forts and Castles, and the national Power and Interest there.

Accordingly, such an Account was given to the Auditors of the Exchequer. And if in taking and examining that Account, those Gentlemen had given themselves any needless trouble, to inquire in what Manner the publick Money had been disposed of in the first Instance, immediately after the receipt thereof at the Exchequer, they would, I apprehend, have acted absurdly. Their Business, which they perfectly understand, was to inquire whether the Service had been done, and an equivalent

equivalent Sum laid out, according to the intent of the Grant. If one Merchant pays to another, here, a Sum of Money, to have a Bill for an equivalent Sum to be repaid to his use in *Amsterdam*; I presume that, provided the Bill be duly discharged, no Inquiry will be thought necessary, whether the second Merchant had Credit or Effects at *Amsterdam* before-hand, or whether he presently sent over Bullion or other Effects, or even borrowed the Money, or what other Means he used to have his Contract punctually performed. Or if Money should be put into the Hands of any *British* Merchants, on condition of furnishing Money for the pay of any *British* Troops in any foreign Country; I apprehend that, in case the Contract be duly performed in the Species of such foreign Country, it would be totally unnecessary to inquire how the individual Money advanced at home was disposed of.

In the Manuscript, which the Author of the Detection squints at, without daring, as I suppose, to name it openly, for fear of incurring the just Displeasure of those Honourable Gentlemen, who, as I apprehend, were properly speaking, the Authors; the Accounts rendered annually to the Exchequer, are several times mentioned to this Effect; speaking of one Account for one Year, — An Account of all the Particulars which make up the Sum of *l.* being so many as to fill between

between 30 and 40 Sheets of Paper, close written on all sides, were collected and written out and made Oath to before one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and then delivered. — And after the Deputy Auditors had compared the same with the Books and Vouchers, from which it was collected, &c. the Company had obtained an Allowance and Quietus. — A very laborious Work, each Years Account being sufficient to employ a good Clerk for a whole Years time, — &c.

I have only to observe farther, upon this method, by which the *African* Company has been obliged to Account with the Exchequer; that as no Regard is, or can be had, nor any Credit or Allowance made to them for any thing exported from *England*, except only for the amount of Ammunition and Stores, which are had best at Home, and are afterwards used Abroad in Specie; so in passing the Accounts, the Auditors of the Exchequer did not, nor could take any Notice of the prime Cost in *England*, nor of the Charges attending the Exportation of Goods sold there for maintaining the Forts, but only of the Current Prices and Amounts in *Africa*, upon the Spot; which in the Accounts rendered at the Exchequer, are reduced to Sterling Money, by deducting one third, or 50. out of every 150. which was proved by Certificates of several Merchants, to be a full Allowance or Deduction in lieu of an Exchange.

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‘ From this plain Account of a known Trans-
‘ action, I apprehend that it will appear, and
‘ hope that every candid Reader will find these
‘ following Inferences to be true, *viz.*

‘ That it is not at all material to the Publick,
‘ whether the Exports (except those applied
‘ abroad in Specie) were well or ill bought in
‘ *England*; because, market Prices do no-
‘ where depend upon the prime Cost and
‘ Charges.

‘ That unless the Author of the Detection
‘ had, or could have contradicted the Manu-
‘ script he mentions, (which I take to be no-
‘ other than a Copy of a Report of a Committee
‘ of the Honourable House of Commons, made
‘ on *March* 1743, upon a very long and parti-
‘ cular Inquiry) so as to shew that the *African*
‘ Company had not expended 10,000*l.* annu-
‘ ally, for the Purposes those Sum were given;
‘ all that he says, or hints, concerning any
‘ Misapplication of the publick Money, is ex-
‘ tremely ridiculous at best.

‘ That it is not at all material to any impartial
‘ Inquirer, on behalf of the Publick, how
‘ the publick Money was applied in the
‘ first Instance, whether in ready Money for
‘ Goods and Stores to be exported, or in pay-
‘ ment of old Debts to procure new Credit, or
‘ how otherwise, so long as the Service was
‘ done, to as great or greater amount then the
‘ publick Money would reach.

That

‘ That whatever the same Author has said,
 ‘ concerning the Company’s Trading and Re-
 ‘ turns is, with respect to the Publick, quite
 ‘ foreign to the Purpose at best. For my own
 ‘ part I do, besides, believe the same to be
 ‘ false, or at least very doubtful, and purposelly
 ‘ misrepresented ; but it is out of my Sphere
 ‘ now, to meddle in the Company’s Affairs.

‘ That what he has said of their Method of
 ‘ accounting (page 12 and elsewhere) is altoge-
 ‘ ther contrary to Truth ; but whether this
 ‘ has happened through his Ignorance or Male-
 ‘ volence, I leave to the Author himself to de-
 ‘ termine.

‘ That if it should be found necessary to
 ‘ maintain the Forts and Castles effectually,
 ‘ the Persons who shall have the Care thereof,
 ‘ must either pursue the same methods (but to
 ‘ better Effect) and be obliged to Trade, and
 ‘ Account as the *African Company* have done,
 ‘ or have been required to do : or else such Per-
 ‘ sons must have an annual Supply absolutely,
 ‘ and be subject to some annual Survey and In-
 ‘ spection, attended with Power, to see and en-
 ‘ force a full Performance of the Service intend-
 ‘ ed. And that any other Method will either
 ‘ prove ineffectual, or be attended with very
 ‘ great unnecessary Expences, or both.

‘ I come now to make a few short Ob-
 ‘ servations on what this Author has thought fit
 ‘ to say concerning myself. In page 10 he says,
 ‘ that I was *the chief Instrument in procuring*

' my (then) *Masters* the 20,000 l. voted in 1744.
 ' This Assertion, like many others in his Book,
 ' is so void of any certain Meaning, that it is
 ' hard to guess at it. Therefore I can only af-
 ' firm, as the Truth is, that I was neither em-
 ' ploy'd, nor did I, of my own accord, or
 ' otherwise, sollicit any one or more Members
 ' of Parliament to procure that Vote. If this
 ' Writer means that I was the chief, or only
 ' Person examined by the Committee of the
 ' Honourable House of Commons, towards the
 ' end of 1743; I answer, that it was not in
 ' my choice, whether I would or would not be
 ' examined, nor whether the Honourable Com-
 ' mittee would chuse to examine any, or which
 ' other Person or Persons: But, as it fell to my
 ' Lot, I hope it can be no Crime to have given
 ' the clearest and most satisfactory Evidence in
 ' my Power.

' The Author goes on and says, *Though by*
 ' *his Address and Management, he saved them*
 ' *for that time.* I answer, that they (my then
 ' Masters) were not then accused of any Thing
 ' that I know of: And if this Writer means any
 ' Thing by *Address and Management*, more
 ' than the being able to collect and state, by
 ' order, many long and large Accounts, in
 ' very different Forms and Lights from what
 ' he was any way provided for, or ex-
 ' pected and those in a very short time, this
 ' Respondent believes the said Author knows
 ' not what he means himself. — He goes on
 thus, —

thus, — and received the Reward due to his Dexterity—I answer, that I never received any Reward at all, for any Dexterity, nor for all the Pains, Attendance and Trouble I underwent upon that Occasion, how much soever Reward might be due according to this Writer; and if he be so well acquainted as he pretends with the Company's Proceedings, he must know that I never asked for, or had any such Reward, and that the advance of my Salary, and the 50*l.* *per Ann.* for making out the Accounts of Castle Charges, were not grounded or granted upon any such Consideration. He must also farther know, that, I have received very little Benefit from those Grants.

He adds in a Note—and was paid 400*l.* out of the Supplies granted in 1744.—I answer, there was a much greater Arrear due to me at that time, and that it is possible the Money I was paid about that time, might be out of the Supplies—and I would ask this Author what just Objection can be made to it, if what he says should prove true—and also what he himself was paid out of them, while he was in the Company's Service Abroad; and what all other the Company's Servants have been paid. I farther answer, that no Payments made to me, were ever charged to the publick Accounts, while I was Accountant.

This Writer goes on — will shew the Conduct of the Directors in a quite different Light from

' from that in which this Accompant endeavoured
 ' to make them appear. Answer, I should have
 ' thought it my Duty to have set the Actions
 ' of my Masters in as honourable a Light as I
 ' could, consistent with Truth ; but the Con-
 ' duct of the Directors did not, to my appre-
 ' hension, come into any question ; accordingly,
 ' I appeal to that Manuscript, whether I en-
 ' deavoured to set their Conduct in any Light
 ' whatsoever good or bad.

' As to the two next Paragraphs, Pages 11
 ' and 12, wherein the Author mentions a fan-
 ' tastical Proportion, between *Gambia* and the
 ' *Gold Coast*, — the Intention of Parliament —
 ' — the Supplies sent to *Gambia* — the Re-
 ' turns from thence — the Company's Gain
 ' by Tradeat *Gambia* — the Method (a Fiction
 ' of his own) of accounting with the Public ; I
 ' think I have fully answered already by the
 ' foregoing State of the Method of accounting,
 ' or that I have nothing to do with them ; yet
 ' shall observe that both here, and in many
 ' other Places, this Author, for the Sake of be-
 ' ing unintelligible, mixes things together
 ' which are neither true seperately, nor have
 ' any certain Relation to one another. For
 ' what considerate Man will not perceive that,
 ' when the Committee of the Honourable
 ' the House of Commons (whose Report this
 ' wise Writer seems to carp at) were enquiring
 ' diligently concerning the Charge of maintain-
 ' ing the Forts ; the Returns from *Gambia*, or
 elsewhere

elsewhere were quite out of the Question, and had nothing to do with that Inquiry : Or who, in his Senses, can suppose, that when the Honourable the House of Commons granted a Supply for maintaining *African* Forts, for the common Benefit, it should be a Condition either expressed or implied, that the *African* Company only, of all his Majesty's Subjects, should not Trade nor Profit by Trade if they could ? Yet it seems as if this Writer would have it thought a Crime in the *African* Company to Trade, and that he chuses to forget that the Benefit to the Nation in general is the same, in any profitable Trade, whosoever the Individuals be, who reap the Profits in the first Instance. Or would he have it thought that the unfortunate Individuals of the *African* Company, are by being unfortunate, become Out-laws, or have lost the common Benefits to which all his Majesty's Subjects are intitled.

As to the two next Paragraphs, Pages 12 and 13, though they contain several malicious Insinuations against the Accomptant, who was examined by the Committee, yet as it is pretty evident here, that the Authors Anger is rather raised against the Report itself than the Examinant, tho' it may be a little safer to abuse a private Man than fall foul upon such solemn Proceedings : I believe I need not give any Answer farther than to observe, that his principal Objections against

the

' the said Examinate are, first that he did not
 ' give an Account, which if true, he could
 ' not possibly know, without taking a Voyage
 ' to *Cape Coast Castle*, viz. that a parcel of
 ' Goods valued by Inventory at 4267 l. o.s. 3 d.
 ' were, in Reality, not worth so much by far :
 ' And secondly, for not answering Questions
 ' which he was never asked, and if he had been
 ' asked could not have answered. That the
 ' Goods in Question were of the Value set down
 ' in the Report, I am still inclined to believe, and
 ' yet I must own this Author may know more
 ' of that Matter, than I could then, or do now
 ' know, having had nothing but original
 ' Books and Papers to go by, whereas he might
 ' possibly be at *Cape Coast Castle*, and have had
 ' a Hand in the Valuation of the Remains there
 ' at the End of June 1740. Though I never
 ' heard that he gave the Company any Notice
 ' of any Collusion in that Matter.

' This Author having now in vain laboured
 ' to find some material Fault with the above-
 ' mentioned Report, or with the Evidence
 ' given by me upon that Occasion, quits the
 ' Subject for a time, at least, and falls to
 ' summing up the Matter in an Account, which
 ' unluckily has no Connection or Coherence
 ' with the Premises.

' If he had been desirous of stating an Ac-
 ' count between the *African Company* and the
 ' Publick, the *Manuscript* he has taken so much
 ' Pains about, would have saved him some
 Trouble,

‘ Trouble, for he would thereby have found that
 ‘ the Company had receiv’d 10000 *l.* and paid
 ‘ 17233 *l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* annually for 14 Years toge-
 ‘ ther ; and that for those 14 Years they were
 ‘ in Surplusage 101263 *l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* and so
 ‘ he would have had no more to do but make
 ‘ up the Account for the Years since 1743.

‘ But as this did not at all suit his Purpose,
 ‘ he has gone another Way to work, and form-
 ‘ ed an Account; which, if it means any thing,
 ‘ should mean or be intended to mean, *An Ac-*
 ‘ *count between the Court of Assistants and their*
 ‘ *Constituents the Proprietors of the African Com-*
 ‘ *pany, so far as relates to Receipts and Dis-*
 ‘ *bursements in England : Or else a general Ac-*
 ‘ *count of the African Company, so far as relates*
 ‘ *to such Receipts and Disbursements.*

‘ It happens, however, that what he has put
 ‘ together as an Account, will not answer to his
 ‘ own, nor either of these Titles, nor any o-
 ‘ ther, because of the Confusion in the Arti-
 ‘ cles. There is one, if not more Items,
 ‘ avowedly false, which cannot belong to the
 ‘ rest, and if it could, it is placed on the wrong
 ‘ side. Though I do not think it concerns me
 ‘ at all to rectify this Chimerical Debtor and
 ‘ Creditor, yet by your Leave, and if you can
 ‘ spare Room, I shall bestow a few Notes
 ‘ upon it.

‘ The Author says, in Page 14, that he has
 ‘ *bad Opportunities enough to make himself ac-*
 ‘ *quainted with their Proceedings ; but in Page*

‘ 22, he seems to recall that, and says—*bad I
free access to their Books I could state, &c.*
‘ Whence, I think, it may be concluded, that
‘ the several Articles in his Account, which he
‘ says were taken from the Company’s Books,
‘ were taken surreptitiously; and, if so,
‘ they must have been stolen by somebody,
‘ whose Capacity for stealing such Things is
‘ unknown, and whose Integrity must be small,
‘ or else he would not have stolen them: Con-
‘ sequently those Articles are all very doubtful
‘ at best.

‘ As to the Articles which are owned to be
‘ guessed at, perhaps others may guess at them
‘ very differently, and all to no Purpose; whence,
‘ very little Faith can be given to this Ac-
‘ count.

‘ But besides these dubious Articles and guess
‘ Work, he has, according to my Apprehen-
‘ sion, omitted several material Items belonging
‘ to the Credit Side: I shall mention some which
‘ at first Sight occur to me.

‘ I. The Amount of the Company’s Debts
‘ at the End of the Year 1729.

‘ II. Management in *London*, which accord-
‘ ing to this Writer’s Estimate, in Page
‘ 20, amounts to 48,096*l.*

‘ III. Such of the present Debts as became
‘ due in *Africa*, but are now claimed in
‘ *England*:

‘ *England* : This, I am of Opinion, must
‘ be a very large Article, but I cannot set
‘ it forth, having no Access to the Books.

‘ IV. All the Money that has been paid in
‘ *England* on the same Account, in 18
‘ Years, and not comprehended under the
‘ Heads of Goods and Stores exported.

‘ V. All the Freight, Insurance and Charges
‘ of Shipping, which have been paid in
‘ *England* in the same Time, over and
‘ above what is charged under the same
‘ Heads of Goods and Stores exported.

‘ VI. All the Interest which has been paid
‘ for Money borrowed, and for Debts con-
‘ verted into Bonds, for want of Money.

‘ VII. All Losses.

‘ VIII. All Law Charges, and probably ma-
‘ ny other Items, which do not at present
‘ occur to my Memory.

‘ I know not whether the foregoing Notes
‘ will be thought unnecessary ; yet beg Leave
‘ to add, that if ever it shall be worth the while,
‘ or become necessary for the Company, the
‘ Creditors, or the Directors, to be at the Ex-
‘ pence of stating a True General Account of
‘ all Receipts and Disbursements for the 18

' Years past, from Authentick Books and
 ' Vouchers, not from stolen Extracts, nor by
 ' guess, nor by halves, as this Author has done;
 ' I am firmly of Opinion, and make no doubt
 ' but it will then appear, that the Directors are
 ' very far from having any thing to answer for,
 ' out of their own Estates, as this *great* Author
 ' seems to threaten in more Places than one;
 ' and even to demand of the Parliament in a
 ' Stile, which sounds to me, something like
 ' menacing, where he says, in Page 24—
 ' *as it is almost Treason to suppose, that the Par-*
 ' *liament will load the Nation with any Burden*
 ' *to pay the Company's Debts, merely to save them-*
 ' *selves the Trouble of an Inquiry.*

' If such an Account were stated, I am per-
 ' suaded that all the injurious Reflections, of
 ' which this Writer has, with the utmost Viru-
 ' lence, thrown out, indiscriminately, against a very
 ' great Number of noble, honourable and wor-
 ' thy Persons, who have acted in the *African*
 ' Direction, within 30 Years past, would be
 ' found to be Slanders of the grossest Kind. I
 ' presume, however, that it will not be thought
 ' necessary to be at much Expence or Pains to
 ' disprove the Calumnies contained in a Perfor-
 ' mance wherein the Author's visible Rancour
 ' throughout the whole may serve, in a great
 ' measure, to destroy the Credit of all his Alle-
 ' gations.

' The said Author, being fond of his before-
 ' mentioned Account, goes on to make Com-
 ' ments,

ments, very gravely, upon that favourite
 Piece, I think it unnecessary to take any far-
 ther Notice of any of those Remarks, except
 the last, in Page 22. concerning the Ships and
 small Vessels attending the Forts, wherein he
 brings my Name in Question again; and I sup-
 pose would have it thought, that *I had slipped*
 something into the Account of Castle Charges,
 which ought not to be there, tho' indeed, he
 does not charge me directly, but only says,
white Men have been slipped. The Evidence.
 I gave concerning this Matter runs thus
 That the Reason of charging the said 1000*l.*
 by Estimate was and is, because the Charge
 of the Company's Ships is partly paid Abroad,
 but principally at Home; and the Sailors
 Wages, and Wear and Tare, for the Time
 of such their Attendance, cannot easily be
 ascertained; there being often several of
 them upon the Coast at the same Time, and
 the Continuance of each very different; but
 that he was well assured, that the said Sum
 of 1000*l.* was far less than the Attendance
 of the Company's Ships, upon the said Fort,
 have stood them in annually" "To which I
 now add, that, although I have not now the
 Company's Books, I still believe that Evidence
 to be true; for I remember, that since that
 Evidence was given, the Particulars of some
 of the Years were examined into, and wrote
 out, and found to exceed 1000*l.* each, very
 considerably; and I suppose this Author might
 have

have procured those Particulars, by the like Conveyance whereby he procured his other Intelligence, from the *African House*.

As to the Assertion, that *white Men aboard have been slipped into the Account of Castle Charges, and charged to the Government as Soldiers at 27 l. per Annum each, to swell that Account*. I answer, that the Accounts rendered to the Auditors of the Exchequer, which are in their Custody, will speak for themselves; that I do not know or believe, that there is, in those Accounts, any one Instance of a Sailor charged as a Soldier, nor any Thing of that Nature, nor any one Man's Pay charged one Farthing more than what the Agents and Pay-masters Abroad first charged to the Company. If there were any false Musters Abroad, such Collusion never came to my Knowledge, nor, as I believe, to the Knowledge of the Court of Assistants. But perhaps this Author, who, I apprehend, has had the paying of some Soldiers and others Abroad, may know more than he ever thought proper to lay before his Masters, whom he now treats with so much Gratitude. I own I had nothing to go by, in this Case, but the original Books and Vouchers from *Africa*.

I have but one Word more, about this Author's *Astonishment* (in Page 19.) concerning the Company's Debts. He first assumes those Debts to be a certain Sum by Guess, for neither he, nor any Body else, knows the exact

exact Sum ; he guesses at another Sum of two, leaves out several, presumes there are but two Ways by which the Company's Debts might grow, confounds the Company's Account with the Publick, with the Company's General Account, or with his own favourite Account ; and yet is astonished, that a true Conclusion cannot be drawn from Premises which are all precarious, confused, defective, or false.

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c.

London, Feb. 22,

1748.

E. SPARKE.

As for the last general Head relating to foreign Companies, and some other miscellaneous Observations on the Management of the Trade and other Affairs on the Coast of Africa ; a Gentleman of great *Worth*, long *Experience*, and extensive *Knowledge* in all Matters of that Kind, hath been so obliging as to favour me with his Remarks ; which therefore I shall now take the Liberty to communicate to the Publick in his own Words :

The Author of the *Detection*, &c. besmuts all round him, *French*, *Dutch*, *Danes*, &c. How far he is governed by Truth in this Daubing will best appear by the Sequel.

The indigent State of the Company's Affairs Abroad for some Years past, and the Extremities

tremities their Servants there have frequently been reduced to, are no more than what they themselves have repeatedly represented to the Publick, and which was no Secret before the Appearance of the Detector's elaborate Performance, even his Specimens of the Attachment of the Negroes, that is to say, such of them as are true, were not concealed.

As the Detector is without Order, the Answerer is excusable in here animadverting on the iniquitous *French* Contract. In order thereto it will be proper to premise, that from the Year 1736, every *British* Subject on the Gold Coast, both on board of Ships and at Land, traded with the *French* and *Dutch* without Distinction. And certain it is, that from the Year 1737, to the Year 1744, the *French* were indulged to trade at *Annamaboo*, by Reason, till the Arrival of *Francis Holborne*, Esq; then Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Argyle*, on the Coast, none of the Captains of Men of War had any Orders to dislodge them from thence: And seeing, that it was obvious to all the World, that the *French* were determined to trade on the Gold Coast, and did till they were drove away; happy had it been for the private Traders, if the Company could have slaved every one of them. As, in the first Place, the Prices of Slaves would not have been raised on them by the Blacks, which would have saved the Nation a great deal in the prime Cost, and the Planters would have been

been served in Slaves at easier Rates; in Consequence of which our *West-India* Merchants would have had larger Returns from them in exchange for our Home Manufactures, and *India* Goods. And further, the Company would have gained to the Nation the Difference of the Prices paid to the Blacks, and of those received from the *French*, which is now sunk among the Blacks, attended with this bad Consequence, that their tasting the high Prices given by the *French*, when trading directly with them, has greatly shaken the *English* Interest among them, and recommended that of the *French*.

As the Detector is a very subtle Casuist, it is supposed he will maintain, that the Merit he had in rendering this iniquitous Contract abortive, will, in *foro divino*, cancel his Violation of Oaths and Covenants in the Performance of that good Work. One Specimen, among many, may suffice to show, how vigilant and industrious he was in frustrating that Contract, namely, his piously selling, on his own Account, one Afternoon, to the Long Boat of the Ship *Hirondelle*, of *Rochelle*, Captain *Veillon*, thirty-two Slaves, which should have been applied towards completing the same. As Virtue is its own Recompense, I shall forbear to expatiate on his laudable and indefatigable Application in this Affair. However, before this Paragraph is finished, I must crave Indulgence to beg a Favour of the Detector;

which is, that he will vouchsafe to inform the World, how Men may rise from 70*l.* per *Annum*, to 20 or 30000*l.* Capital. This Question I should not have ventured upon, had I not been credibly informed, that he himself for two Years enjoy'd an Office of 100*l.* per *Annum*, during which Time he lived at the Rate of 500*l.* per *Annum*, and by a peculiar Oeconomy saved 3000*l.* From this I infer, that he can oblige the World with an Explanation of the above seeming Mystery.

Before entering upon what the Writer is pleased to say of the several Companies that traded and do trade to *Africa*, it will not be improper to take Notice, *en passant*, of the hideous Picture he presents the Reader with of the *English* and *Dutch* Perpetrations against one another. The pathetic Description whereof shews he is in Character in limning this Piece, and that he feels the Thing he describes, having had some Practice, in supporting with Powder and Guns the rebellious Negroes at *Elmina*, to the great Detriment of the *Dutch* Company, and the Distress of their Servants, in the Years 1739 and 1740.

In a Note at the Bottom of the 26th Page, concerning the King of *Warsaw*, the Writer begins to nod; as he can never be suspected of a Design of perverting Truth, to prevent his future mistaking the Matter, here follows the true History. The King of *Ashantee* sent Messengers to the *English* and *Dutch*, acquainting

ing them, that he intended to attack the King of *Warsaw*; and gave each a Present of Gold Dust, desiring, if they regarded his Friendship, to beat the King of *Warsaw* from their respective Territories, and to afford him no Manner of Succour. Both *English* and *Dutch* took the Money, and promised to comply with the King of *Ashantee*'s Request. Which the *Dutch* did by preventing the King of *Warsaw* to pass the River *Sapoom*, where they had Power to obstruct his Passage, and gave him Admission no where in their Jurisdiction. On the other hand, I am sorry to say, the *English*, instead of fulfilling their Engagements, sent their Cabocean, *Thomas Awishee*, and rescued the King of *Warsaw* from the King of *Ashantee*, and procured him a safe Retreat among the *Fanteens*. Which Perfidy the King of *Ashantee* still upbraids the *English* with. However this is our Detector's Story of the *Dutch* inviting the King of *Warsaw* into *Elmina* Castle to murder him.

The next Thing you are presented with is the Detector dropping his Character, and commencing Projector; and in order to make a clear Stage for his *regulated Scheme*, he mows down before him the Companies of all Nations. But before we set him to Rights in these Affairs, it is becoming to applaud and acknowledge his Candour and Modesty, in yielding to a disinterested Conviction, the Preference of an open regulated Company to

that of a Joint Stock. However, some are audacious enough to say in this Matter, he has a secret and a revealed Will, and is still internally for a Joint Stock Company. But finding he had no Chance of Employment in that Style, he listed himself under the Banners of the Champions for the regulated Scheme, and by a fly Piece of Adulation to insinuate himself into their Favour, he seemed to become a Profelyte to their Arguments. This is said to be the latent Cause of his Conversion, and that he, like all Renegadoes becomes sanguine against those of the old Faith, to leave no Suspicion of his Sincerity and Zeal in the new Cause.

As the Manner the Detector takes to prove the Expediency of an open regulated Company, from the Examples and Miscarriages of other Nations, is so perplexed and immethodical (an Emblem of his Scheme) it is impossible regularly to answere the same: So it is thought the best Method will be to give a short Account of each Foreign Company he mentions.

To begin with the *French*, who he says in Fifty Five Years had seven *African* Companies, and most of them became Bankrupts after their Establishment, &c. It is true the *French* Companies underwent many Changes in the Infancy of their *African* Trade, as their mercantile Affairs could not well be perfected, by Reason the Nation was often distracted by bloody and expensive Wars. However, it is to be observed

served that each Alteration produced an Addition of Strength and Influence; because the Reasons of Change was not Bankruptcy, but progressively to remedy Defects and Imbecillities in the foregoing Institutions; till, by a regular Gradation, they compleated a firm, solid and consistent Establishment.

Here it must be observed the Detector has again forgot himself, for there was a Coalition of Companies in *France* before that of the Year 1719, by Mr. *Laws*, and it was not then to save the *Senegal* Company from Bankruptcy, but to strengthen it so as to be able to accomplish the Usurpation of all the *Gum Coast*, which they have effectually done. Let us take up their Companies at the Period the *French* began to make a considerable Figure in Trade, which was founded in, and promoted by the judicious Regulations and comprehensive Views, in forming and modelling all their Companies. But before we begin the Historical Account of the *French* Companies at the Period proposed, it will not be improper to observe that the *French* had sometimes two *African* Companies at once, namely, the *Senegal* Company, and the *Guinea* Company; the first traded from *Cape Blanco* to the River *Sierra Leonæ*, and the second from the River *Sierra Leonæ* to the *Cape of Good Hope*. The District of the first is preserv'd exclusive to the Company of the *Indies*, but that of the second is opened to all the private Traders in *France*, they first obtaining Licences

Licences from the Company, for which they pay ten *per Cent. ad valorem*, on their Exports.

Louisiana was granted by *Lewis* the XIVth to Monsieur *Crozat*, by a Patent dated the 14th of *September*, 1712. This Patent was surrendered in *August* 1717; and in the same Month, an Edict was made, whereby a Company was created by the Name of *La Compagnie d'Occident*; to which the King granted what had been contained in the Patent to Monsieur *Crozat*; as also the Castor or Beaver Trade of *Canada*, which the *Sieurs Aubert*, and his Partners, had enjoyed from the Year 1706, by a Contract that expired in the Year 1717.

The Stock of this Company was divided into Actions or Shares of 500 Livres each, for which two Kinds of Notes were given, one for a single Share, and the other for ten Shares, both payable to the Bearer. As State Bills were to be received for the Subscriptions, so an Annuity was granted for them at the Rate of four *per Cent.* and the Arrear due in 1717, as a Fund to be employed in Trade.

In *December*, 1717, a new Edict was made, by which the Stock was limited to one hundred Million of Shares, which were subscribed by the 16th of *July* following.

In the Year 1718, the *Senegal* Company, and the *African* Trade, were united to the Company.

In

In the Month of *May*, 1719, an Edict passed, whereby the *East-India* and *China* Companies were united to the *Western* Company, and its Name was changed to that of *La Compagnie des Indes*; and in the Year 1720, the Privileges of the *St. Domingo* Company were added to it.

Upon the Report of the uniting of the *Western* and *East-India* Company, the Stock of the *Western* Company rose considerably; and the united Company being impowered by the Edict, 1719, to take in Subscriptions for Twenty five Millions of Shares more, at the Rate of 550 Livres a Share, they were immediately subscribed. By another Arret in *July* following, more Subscriptions were taken in, for Twenty Five Millions of Shares at one Thousand Livres for each; and by two subsequent Arrets, one Hundred and Fifty Millions of Shares more were taken in, at one Thousand *per Cent.* So that the Shares, including the old Stock of the *Western* Company, were three Hundred Million, at which they were fixed by an Arret of the 12th of *October* 1719.

In *August* 1719. the Company undertook the general Farms of the King's Revenue at 3,500,000 Livres a Year more than they were formerly Lett for; and engaged to lend the King Twelve Hundred Millions of Livres to pay off his Debts; but this being found insufficient to discharge the Debts of the State, the Company lent the King 100,000,000 Livres

vres more in the Month of *September*, and 300,000,000 in the Month of *October*, so that the Loan was increased to Sixteen Hundred Millions of Livres, for which the King was to pay three *per Cent.*

On the 23d of *February* 1720, the Management of the Royal Bank was given to the Company, and Mr. *Law*, at that Time Comptroller General of the Finances, was appointed Inspector General of the Company of the *Indies* and the Bank united together.

This Union, say the *French* Writers, was the fatal Rock upon which both the Bank and the Company Split. The Bank Notes soon lost all Manner of Credit. The Stock of the Company tumbled down, and the Company must have followed the Fate of the Bank, if some Care had not been taken to preserve it.

The Inspector General was displaced, and afterwards forced to quit the Kingdom. New Directors were appointed; and, in order to get a perfect Knowledge of the Company's Affairs, an Arret was passed the 26th of *January*, 1721, whereby it was ordered that Accounts should be taken of the Receipts and Payments in the Company and the Bank.

The Company having raised great Opposition to this Arret, the Execution of it was peremptorily ordered by an Arret the 7th of *April* following.

Endeavours

Endeavours were used to distinguish the true Proprietors of Stock from the *Mississipian* Stock-jobbers, whose Practices were so fatal to the Publick.

A second Arret was published on the 7th of *April*, 1721, whereby the King ordered some Counsellors of State to make Report of the Books, Securities and Effects of the Company and the Bank, which were deposited in the Hands of Persons appointed for that Purpose ; who, under the name of *Regisseurs*, should manage the same until the King, upon a full Knowledge of the Company's Affairs, might provide for the Interest and Security of the true Proprietors, by forming a new Company.

Thus fell the Company of the *Indies*, erected by Mr. *Law*, a Victim to his own boundless chimerical Projects, in which the *African* Trade had no Share, as the Writer would insinuate.

Let us now proceed to shew how the Company of the *Indies* was re-established.

It is to be observed, that by an Arret of the 22d of *March*, 1723, the Number of Actions or Shares was fixed at 56,000, for which 48,000 Bills were made out, each of an entire Share, consisting of 5000 Livres and 80,000 others of a tenth Part of a Share, or 500 Livres each.

On the 24th Day of the same Month, the King restored the Company to the full Enjoy-

ment of its Effects, appointed a Council of the *Indies* to superintend the Company's Affairs, and directed a Dividend, of one Hundred Livres on each Share, to be paid for the Year 1722, out of the Funds appointed for that Purpose, independent of the Profits made by Trade.

In order fully to establish this Company, two Edicts were made in *January, 1725*, and registered by the Parliament, the King sitting in his Bed of Justice.

By one of these Edicts, the King ordereth, that the Company shall enjoy the exclusive Privileges heretofore granted the *East-India* and *China* Companies.

The exclusive Trade for Negroes, Gold-Dust, and other Commodities on the Coast of *Africa*, from the River *Sierra Leonæ* inclusive, to the Cape of *Good-Hope*, as heretofore enjoyed by the *Guinea* Company.

The exclusive Trade from Cape *Blanco*, to the River *Sierra Leonæ*, as heretofore enjoyed by the *Senegal* Company.

The Grant of *Louisiana*, and the exclusive Privilege of the Castor or Beaver Trade, in *Canada*.

The Privilege of Trade on the Coast of *Barbary*, as the same was enjoyed by the Companies to which it had been heretofore granted.

The King confirmeth to the Company the Farm of Tobacco, and the exclusive Privilege of

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of selling Tobacco in *France* and the Countries dependent thereon, which has been for some Time assigned by the Company to the *Fermiers Generaux*.

The exclusive Privilege of the Sale of Coffee, saving to the City of *Marseilles*, the Privilege confirmed to it by an Arret of the 8th Day of *February, 1724*.

These are the material Grants to the Company contained in this Edict: And the King doth by the other acquit the Company from all its former Transactions; the Registers and Papers relating thereto, except those which related to the Trade of the Company, being ordered to be burnt.

The *African Company of England* would not have it thought, that, by the forgoing Narrative, they intend to insinuate that they either expect or desire any of the Privileges abovementioned, and more particularly the last Indulgence, as their Books and Papers are their only Defence against the Obloquy and Defamation of such of their Servants who are become Apostates, after having largely contributed to their Ruin. And the true Motive of giving so long a Detail, was to convince the World that the Detector has a double Happiness in blundering, proceeding equally from Ignorance and Insincerity.

Let us now come to the *Dutch Company*, who, our Writer briskly affirms, have no trading

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Let us now come to the *Dutch Company*, who, our Writer briskly affirms, have no trading

Stock left ; how true that Assertion is, will best appear by the Sequel : As also, how true it is that they have for some Time managed their Affairs in *Africa* by his favourite, regulated Plan.

About the Year 1739, their Contract with the Society of *Surrinaame*, for furnishing that Colony with Negroes ended ; by which a considerable Slave Trade was carried on, besides that for Gold and Elephants Teeth, of which large Remittances were annually sent to *Holland*. At the Time aforesmentioned, their Affairs were greatly disordered by a Quarrel that happened between their Director-General, and the Negroes of *Elmina* Town ; the Share our Detector had in that is already hinted at. The Expence of this Quarrel, and particularly in hiring the *Fanteen* Country against them, exhausted all the Effects the Company had on the Coast at that Time. Upon the Death of the Director-General, which produced a Termination of the War, the Company was destitute of all Manner of Goods on the Coast of *Africa* ; and, for a temporary Expedient to support the Companies Forts and Servants on the Coast, there was a Regulation made by the President and Council, whereby every one was permitted to trade on his own proper Account, to as great an Extent as he pleased, paying to the Company in Gold and Teeth 2*l.* a-head for every Negroe he sold : But no Alteration
was

was made with regard to their Form of Government, nor with respect to the private Traders. Upon the whole, the Liberty of Trade to the Servants of the Company is only provisional ; that is to say, it takes Place only at the Times the Company do not chuse to Trade themselves. And it is certain, that, after some Respite taken, to re-settle their Affairs, since the aforementioned great Loss, they resumed their Trade ; and no longer ago than the Year 1747, they had two Ships at *Elmina*, for nine hundred Slaves, destined for *Surrinaame*. So how our Detector comes to find out that the trading Stock of the *West-India* Company of *Holland* is exhausted, is difficult to discover ; which their expensive Presents to the King of *Afghanistan*, do in no way imply : By reason, no further back than the Year 1746, they sent a Coach for him, finely carved, gilded and painted, contrived to be drawn by Negroes ; a Coffin, adorned with Plates and Handles of Silver gilded ; together with several Pieces of rich Gold Brocade and Velvet, with many other Things of Value, which it is thought will amount to about ten Times our Writer's Allowance.

As to the *Prussians* and *Swedes*, (the last our Writer has forgot) neither having Colonies in *America*, it is no Marvel they dropt their Trade to *Africa*. And the *Danes*, as they have begun to extend their Plantation-Trade in

in the Island of St. *Thomas* in *America*, their Affairs lately meliorate.

As to the Settlements at *Whydah*, which our Writer is for abandoning, all I have to say is, that Mr. *Turner*, under whose Care it is at present, affirms, that if large Supplies of proper Assortments of Goods were sent there, he would undertake to furnish a thousand Slaves *per Annum* from that Fort: And has made it appear, that the Charges of that Settlement are not so exorbitant as some Folks have an Interest in making it believed. And it is certain, the King *Dahomy* will always protect the Place rather then starve it, if it were for no other Reason than that it is his Interest to have a Variety of *European* Nations settled with him. Upon the whole, it is imagined, the Detector's Coadjutor, having ruined the Place as much as was in his Power, is desirous that it may receive the *Coup de Grace* from more illustrious Hands, that its future Improvement may not stand in Judgment against his preposterous Conduct.

Now one Detection more, and I have done with the Detector. To the best of my Remembrance, he says somewhere, that the Captains of *English* Ships did not think their Gold and Teeth safe in the Custody of the Company's Agents at *Cape-Coast*, but left them with the Dutch General at *Elmina*, to be shipp'd Home in the first *English* Man of War, for Security.

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It is an Inconveniency that attends all Men of Virtue, who judge of the Sincerity and Probity of others, by the Simplicity and Rectitude of their own Hearts; thus the innocent and unsuspecting Credulity of the candid Detector has been abused by his own Mirmydons; for unhappily for him, I have seen Bills of Lading signed by *George Pocock, Esq;* then Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Sutherland*; *Robert Swanton, Esq;* then Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Mary Galley*, the late *William Bulley, Esq;* then Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Ludlow Castle*; and *Ormond Thompson, Esq;* then Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Pool*, for Gold and Elephants Teeth, belonging to Captains of *London, Bristol* and *Liverpool*, that had been deposited with the Council at *Cape Coast Castle*, and to be shipped on his Majesty's Ships by them. Yea even Capt. *Robbins, of Bristol*, and Capt. *Jarret, of London*, left their Gold, and did not so much as demand Receipts for it. It is true, I believe there was one *Liverpool Captain* who did leave his Gold at *Elmina*; what his Motives were, no Body I suppose took the Trouble to inquire.

Here I take Leave of the Detector, who, I must acknowledge has discovered a Genius in every Part of his Performance but his regulated Scheme; for in every Part but that, he has been Inventor; and I am astonished that a Man of his Parts should condescend to vamp up an obsoleto

obsolete Affair, that was exploded in the Year 1708, because it was thought of too vague and disconcerted a Nature to secure the Property, Jurisdiction and Dominion of the *British* Nation in *Africa*; and if these Reasons proved any Thing, at a Time when we had only the *Dutch* to contend with, they prove much more now that the *French* have entered the Lists.

London, March 1, 1748.

F I N I S.

